

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 209707

43

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 MC-02 AID-20 IGA-02 /165 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:DLAZAR:PAL

APPROVED BY ARA:WGBOWDLER

----- 065689

P 241613Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 209707

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ES -

SUBJECT: MEETING BETWEEN ALFREDO ORTIZ MANCIA AND DEPUTY
ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER

1. MR. ORTIZ OPENED THE MEETING BY EXPLAINING THAT HE HAD TRAVELLED TO WASHINGTON AT PRESIDENT MOLINA'S REQUEST TO CHECK OUT THE SALVADOREAN IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS A COOLNESS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT TOWARD EL SALVADOR PERHAPS ARISING OUT OF THE 1969 WAR WITH HONDURAS. IN SUPPORT OF THIS IMPRESSION HE MENTIONED THE LEAK ON THE ISRAELI ARMS DEAL WHICH PERSONS IN EL SALVADOR THINK CAME FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE GOES WAS NOT RECEIVING THE SAME TYPE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE, BOTH IN MATERIEL AND TRAINING, AS OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. ORTIZ DESCRIBED HONDURAS' HARDENING POSITION IN THE MEXICO CITY NEGOTIATIONS AND STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT THESE TALKS WOULD END IN NO AGREEMENT. WHAT WORRIES THE SALVADOREANS, HE ADDED, WAS THAT IF THESE NEGOTIATIONS FAIL, THERE WILL BE A TEMPTATION ON THE PART OF REVANCHIST ELEMENTS IN HONDURAS TO PUT THE BLAME ON EL SALVADOR AND EVEN TAKE SOME MILITARY ACTION IN RETALIATION FOR THE SALVADOREAN INVASION IN 1969. ORTIZ CLAIMED THAT BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES, SALVADOR WOULD BE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 209707

TARY ASSISTANCE FROM THE UNITED STATES, SALVADOR WOULD BE

HARD PRESSED TO DEFEND ITSELF, PARTICULARLY FROM AERIAL ATTACK, BECAUSE OF THE WEAKNESS OF ITS AIR FORCE.

2. AMBASSADOR BOWDLER, AFTER EXPRESSING HIS GREAT APPRECIATION FOR THE PERSONAL GESTURE OF CONFIDENCE ON THE PART OF PRESIDENT MOLINA IN SENDING ORTIZ TO WASHINGTON, EMPHASIZED THAT THERE WAS NO COOLNESS WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT TOWARDS EL SALVADOR. QUITE THE CONTRARY, HE SAID THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH AND FEELINGS TOWARD EL SALVADOR WERE AS CLOSE AND COOPERATIVE AS THEY HAD EVER BEEN.

3. AMBASSADOR BOWDLER EXPLAINED THAT THE LEAK ON THE ISRAELI ARMS DEAL WAS TOTALLY UNAUTHORIZED AND HAD NOT COME FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. A READING OF THE NEWS STORY SUGGESTS THAT THE PERSON WHO FURNISHED THE INFORMATION SEEMED TO HAVE ISRAELI ARMS DEALS PRIMARILY IN MIND. HE POINTED OUT THAT THE MENTION OF EL SALVADOR SEEMED TO BE INCIDENTAL TO THE PRINCIPAL POINT OF THE STORY AS WERE SIMILAR REFERENCES TO MEXICO AND NICARAGUA. MR. ORTIZ STATED THAT HE WAS VERY GLAD TO RECEIVE THE EXPLANATION BECAUSE OF THE IMPRESSION THAT THE STORY HAD COME OUT OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

4. AMBASSADOR BOWDLER THEN EXPLAINED AT SOME LENGTH OUR POLICY OF EVENHANDEDNESS WITH RESPECT TO EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS ON SUPPLYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING. HE EMPHASIZED THAT WE HAD BEEN SCRUPULOUS IN OFFERING TO EACH COUNTRY, ON IDENTICAL TERMS, WHATEVER HAD BEEN OFFERED TO THE OTHER. AMBASSADOR BOWDLER AND CEN DIRECTOR LAZAR EXPLAINED IN SOME DETAIL THE BACKGROUND OF THE A-37 OFFER. HERE, AGAIN, WE FOUND ORTIZ SURPRISINGLY UNINFORMED FOR A PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY. FOR EXAMPLE, HE WAS UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE HONDURANS HAD ALREADY RECEIVED THEIR A-37'S. WE ASSURED HIM THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AND ADVISED HIM OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT HAD BEEN OVERCOME HERE IN ORDER TO ATTEMPT TO TAILOR THE SALVADOREAN A-37 PACKAGE TO THE EXPRESSED WISHES OF THE SALVADOREANS. WE TOLD HIM THAT WE THOUGHT ONE PROBLEM THE SALVADOREANS MIGHT HAVE HAD WAS OUR INABILITY TO PROMISE THEM THAT CREDIT WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO COVER THE AIRCRAFT SALE. WE EXPLAINED TO ORTIZ
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 209707

THAT WE COULD ONLY HAVE OFFERED CREDIT PURSUANT TO CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION AND THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH AUTHORIZATION WHEN THE NEGOTIATION WAS BEING DISCUSSED. WE TOLD HIM THAT THE OFFER OF THE A-37'S HAD PROBABLY EXPIRED BUT THAT WE WOULD LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF REVIVING IT IF THE GOES WAS STILL INTERESTED.

5. ORTIZ EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL OPINION THAT DIRECT PER-

SONAL CONTACT BETWEEN PRESIDENT MOLINA AND GENERAL LOPEZ PROMOTED BY GENERAL ARANA WOULD BE MUCH MORE LIKELY TO LEAD TO A SOLUTION THAN MEETINGS SUCH AS THOSE GOING ON IN MEXICO. HE FELT THAT DIRECT INTERPERSONAL RELATIONS AWAY FROM THE GLARE OF PUBLICITY HAD ADVANTAGES OVER FORMAL NEGOTIATING SESSIONS WHICH NEEDED TO END WITH A JOINT PRESS RELEASE ACCEPTABLE TO PUBLIC OPINION ON BOTH SIDES. HE STATED THAT THE FRONTIER ISSUE WOULD REQUIRE MUTUAL CONCESSIONS AND HARKENED BACK TO THE ANTIGUA MEETINGS WHICH APPARENTLY HAD ALMOST REACHED AGREEMENT BASED IN PART ON HONDURAS' WILLINGNESS TO EXCHANGE SOME TERRITORY ON ITS SIDE OF THE BORDER FOR SOME OF THE DISPUTED AREAS. ORTIZ ENDED WITH A REQUEST THAT THE U.S. TAKE A HAND IN FACILITATING SETTLEMENT IN SOME WAY. AMBASSADOR BOWDLER POINTED OUT THAT THE MEXICAN NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE VERY USEFUL IN DEFINING AREAS OF AGREEMENT AND DISAGREEMENT. PERHAPS AT THE PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL THE POINTS AT ISSUE COULD BE RESOLVED, THEREBY ACHIEVING THE TYPE OF SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD BENEFIT EVERYONE. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, VISITS, BOUNDARY CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE209707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DLAZAR:PAL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS BOWDLER
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731014/aaaaakdf.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by smithrj>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING BETWEEN ALFREDO ORTIZ MANCIA AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BOWDLER
TAGS: PFOR, ES, US, HO, (ORTIZ MANCIA, ALFREDO)
To: SAN SALVADOR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005